

**REMARKS**

The Examiner has objected to the disclosure because of informalities and typographical errors, and requires correction. The Examiner has also objected to dependent claims 3-6 because of informalities and requires correction. Applicant has amended the specification and claims 3-6 to overcome these grounds of objection.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for his indication that claims 4, 6, 19, 20, 22, 23, 31-38, 46-47, 51, 59, 63, 65, 74-75, 77-78 and 80-86 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 1-3, 5, 7-18, 21, 24-30, 39-45, 48-50, 52-58, 60-62, 64, 66-73, 76 and 79 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by EP 079067A2 ("Pinchasik, et al."). Claims 13-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious over Pinchasik, et al. in view of EP 0679372A2 ("Lam, et al."). These grounds of rejection are respectively traversed.

The present invention is a stent with a first connecting strut with proximal, distal and intermediate sections. The intermediate section is non-parallel to the proximal and distal sections. Additionally, the stent has a first expansion strut of a first expansion strut pair in a first expansion column that has a longitudinal axis which is offset from a longitudinal axis of a first expansion strut of the second expansion strut pair in a second expansion column.

Pinchasik et al., fails to teach or suggest such a structure. Pinchasik et al., in combination with Lam et al., also fails to teach or suggest such a structure. Additionally, there is no suggestion or motivation to combine the teachings of Pinchasik et al., with Lam et al. to obtain the stent of the present invention.

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**CONCLUSION**

Applicant believes that the application is now in condition for allowance  
and respectfully requests issuance of a notice of allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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